

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on April 17, 2008 which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 remain in this application, where claims 10-19 have been added by the present amendment, and claims 1, 12 and 16 are independent.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-9 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 1-9 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings for not labeling FIGs 1-2 as Prior Art. In response, FIGs 1 and 2

have been amended to include the legend --Prior Art--. A replacement sheet including FIGs 1-2 is enclosed. Applicant respectfully request approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes and withdrawal of the drawing objection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract. In response, the current Abstract has been amended as shown in the enclosed Replacement Abstract to remove the informalities noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for certain informalities. In response, the specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. Without agreeing with the position forwarded in the Office Action and in the interest of advancing prosecution, claims 1-9 have been amended to remove the alleged informalities noted in the Office Action. It is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-9 has been

overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIGs 1-2)

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